

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

- 1. MODERATE - 2.2 miles. Skirts Worster Lake, passing through old fields and Maple and Oak-Hickory forest. Returns to Nature Center area.
- 2. RUGGED - 2.0 miles. Accessed either from Trail 1 or Trail 4. Winds through woods, up and down hills, to highest point in park.
- 3. MODERATE - 1 mile. Travels along ridge overlooking Worster Lake, passing through Beech-Maple forest and down to Lake observation deck. Wonderful spring wildflower trail.
- 4. MODERATE - 2.5 miles. Scenic path along stream through Beech-Maple woods, past the Lake and old farm sites.
- 5. EASY - 1 miles. Rolling trail cuts through old fields. Has small wetland observation deck.

PEPPERMINT LOOP TRAIL - EASY .9 mile. Starts at Nature Center following trail 1 on old Peppermint Road along the Lake. Cuts through a young woods and rejoins the end of trail 1.

BICYCLE TRAIL - MODERATE - 3.3 miles Trail starts at boat rental and ends near Tulip Poplar shelter. It winds up and down wooded hills, above the creek bed, and then onto flat land passing wetlands and through forests.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BICYCLE TRAIL — This 3.3 mile paved trail has some hilly and curvy stretches—ride with caution. Bicycle rentals are available, or you may bring your own.

BOATS & CANOES — For rental by day or hour. The Boat Rental is handicapped accessible. Private boats or sailboats may be launched at the boat launches only. Only electric trolling motors, powered by no more than two 12-volt batteries, or hand propulsion, are allowed. Also, a mooring area is available for a nominal fee.

CAMPING — Campground equipped with flush toilets, hot water, showers and electricity. Occupancy is limited to two (2) weeks. No water or sewage hook-ups. Tent and trailer sites. Dumping station and water filling station. A separate horsemen's campground is available.

CAMP STORE — Open May through September.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING — Cross-country ski equipment is not provided. There are over 8 miles of groomed trails when the snow is on. Local radio stations advise of the conditions. There is also tubing, sledding and ice fishing.

FAMILY CABINS – Open year-round. Reservations taken by telephone, in person or mail. Damage deposit required. **No pets allowed!** Cabins will accommodate eight people. There are two bedrooms, a bath, kitchen, dining area and screened porch. Cabins are rented Saturday to Saturday, June through August. Friday and Saturday nights must be rented together the rest of the year. We provide pots, pans and firewood (Nov. 1-April 1) Occupancy limited to two weeks.

FISHING — Bass, bluegill, etc. State license required and 14” minimum bass limit is in effect.

HORSE TRAILS — For owners of horses (no rentals available): trails begin at horsemen's campground. Horses are only permitted on bridle trails. There are 7.1 miles of horse trails.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE — Full time naturalist on duty at the nature center. Ask for a schedule, check the information boards or call for special programs.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment, playfields, and picnic shelters equipped with electricity. All shelters may be reserved.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe the following rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. No youth groups in the family campground.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to such places and times as designated by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles must remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Metal detectors allowed on main beach between Labor Day and Memorial Day with written permission from the property manager.
- Park is closed from 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM. No one is allowed in the park except for campers using their sites between these hours.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

SWIMMING — Free beach. The beach has a handicapped accessible area. Swimming only when lifeguard on duty. Bathhouse and beach open Saturday before Memorial Day and no later than Labor Day. Lockers available for a 25 cent fee. Conditions may require beach closing prior to Labor Day.

TELEPHONE — Public booth in the family campground, general store and office. Emergencies call 911.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

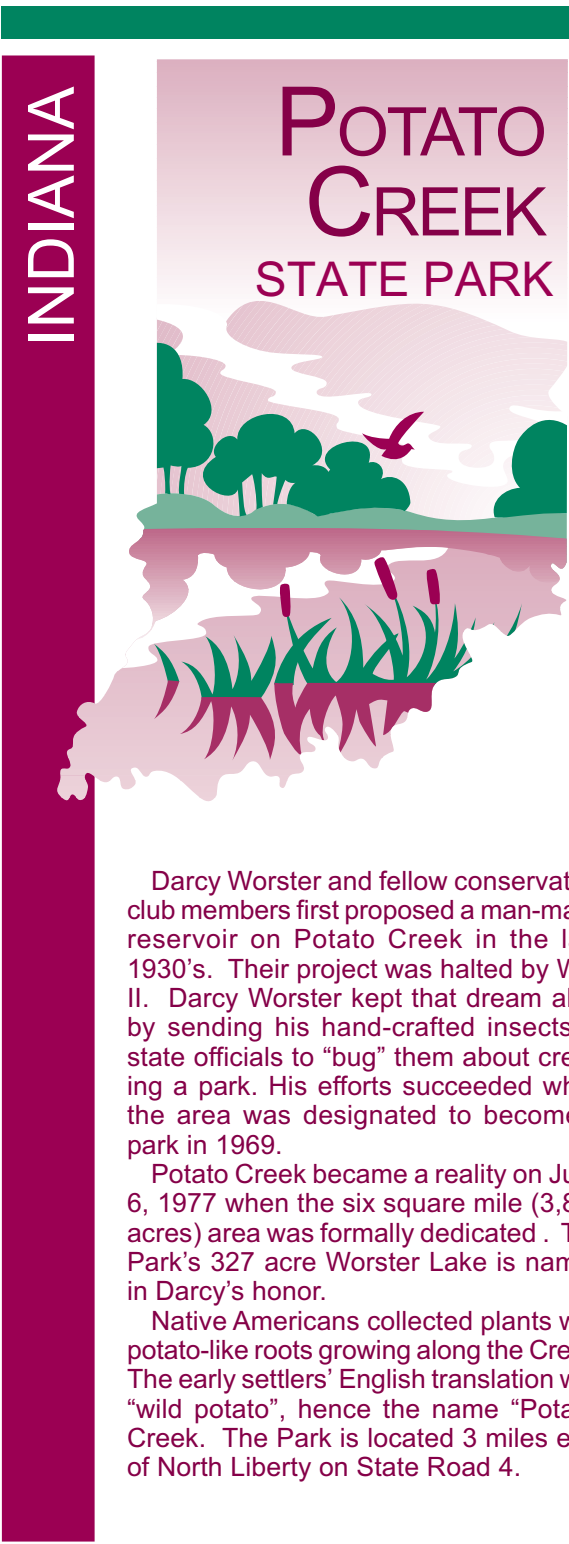
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Potato Creek State Park
25601 St. Rd. 4
P.O. Box 908
North Liberty, Indiana 46554
Call: (574) 656-8186
DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



Darcy Worster and fellow conservation club members first proposed a man-made reservoir on Potato Creek in the late 1930's. Their project was halted by WW II. Darcy Worster kept that dream alive by sending his hand-crafted insects to state officials to “bug” them about creating a park. His efforts succeeded when the area was designated to become a park in 1969. Potato Creek became a reality on June 6, 1977 when the six square mile (3,840 acres) area was formally dedicated . The Park's 327 acre Worster Lake is named in Darcy's honor. Native Americans collected plants with potato-like roots growing along the Creek. The early settlers' English translation was “wild potato”, hence the name “Potato” Creek. The Park is located 3 miles east of North Liberty on State Road 4.

In addition to the many recreational facilities that Potato Creek has to offer, visitors will find a variety of natural areas. Most of these were drastically altered by decades of farming and other land uses prior to the area becoming a park. In the early 1990's an active resource management program was begun at Potato Creek. These efforts will restore and maintain some of the park's natural areas to conditions found here before the area was settled in the early 1800's. The natural wetlands had been drained to farm the land over the last 100 years. Several of these are being restored to provide valuable habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife. The wetland types include saturated soil sedge meadows; shallow marshes; swamps and beaver ponds. Today more than a square mile of the park is covered by wetlands and Worster Lake. These areas abound in wildlife, especially during the spring and fall bird migrations. Native prairie is also being returned to the Potato Creek landscape through plantings. The prairie areas will be maintained by periodic burning under very controlled situations. These meadows put on a colorful late summer flower and grass display. Other areas of the park are being allowed to grow into hardwood forests. Among the highlights of the forests are the spring wildflower displays and a variety of wildlife including songbirds, raccoon, fox, coyote and turkey. Swamp Rose Nature Preserve, located in the northeast section, offers a look at the eutrophic process. This means that a lake has slowly, over hundreds of years, become a wetland. A scenic small stream originates in this wetland and flows into Worster Lake. The Nature Preserve also has several unusual plants and is a favored location for beaver. This blend of wetlands, prairies and forests is what was recorded here before the first European settlers arrived here in the 1830's. These varied communities provide homes for a wide array of wildlife for today's park visitor and for future generations to enjoy.